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Meitinger, Katharina; Ackermann-Piek, Daniela; Blohm, Michael; Edwards, Brad; Gummer, Tobias; Silber, Henning

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Katharina Meitinger, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
Daniela Ackermann-Piek, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany
Michael Blohm, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany
Brad Edwards, Westat, United States
Tobias Gummer, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany
Henning Silber, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany

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Fieldwork monitoring is essential during the data collection of surveys to ensure high-quality data (Koch, et al., 2009; Lyberg & Biemer, 2008; Lynn, 2003; Malter, 2014). During the data collection period, the continuous evaluation of performance indicators (Edwards, Maitland, & Connor, 2017; Schouten, Sholmo, & Skinner, 2011; Schouten et al., 2012) such as response rates, risk of nonresponse bias, contact attempts, or fieldwork intensity per sampling point and interviewer, provides the possibility to detect data collection issues at an early stage and to react timely with targeted interventions to tackle these issues. In this regard, adaptive and responsive survey designs (Groves & Heeringa, 2006; Wagner, 2008; Schouten, Peytchev, & Wagner, 2018) have received increasing attention by survey researchers.

A large variety of performance indicators are available and there are many opportunities to intervene if any issues are detected during the data collection phase (Kreuter, 2013). Depending on the specific survey context, some indicators might be more useful to monitor than others. Also, the optimal monitoring frequency for indicators may differ depending on the specific setting of a survey. An important distinction regarding optimal fieldwork monitoring strategies is whether the survey is conducted by the research organization itself or whether a commercial survey agency is contracted to field the survey. In the latter case, some indicators might be less informative because the performance indicators are usually not delivered to the research organization on a daily basis, and field interventions need more time to be implemented successfully.

This special issue spotlights the lessons learned when working with different fieldwork monitoring strategies in various settings. In particular, the topics of interest include which performance indicators have been implemented successfully (e.g., to reduce errors described in the Total Survey Error framework, see Groves & Lyberg, 2010) and which have been deemed to be less useful. The large variety of indicators is paralleled by a multitude of possible fieldwork measures or interventions that address specific aspects of the data collection process (e.g., change or re-training of interviewers, re-contact of soft refusals, tailored reminder letters or adjustment of incentives). Many large scale-survey programs have an abundance of experiences regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of different fieldwork monitoring strategies. Due to the often nonexperimental nature of many field activities, articles sharing this expertise are rare. This special issue provides a platform to share this valuable best practice knowledge and provide insights on which fieldwork strategies and tools are employed in the field.

Altogether, seven contributions are included in this special issue. The study by Meitinger et al. provides a descriptive overview and relevance rating of fieldwork indicators and measures that are currently being used by seventeen large-scale surveys in Germany. Five articles provide case studies from specific national and international survey programs. Briceno-Rosas, Butt, and Kappelhof describe the fieldwork management system of the *European Social Survey*. Cornesse discusses the utility of auxiliary data with the example of the *German Internet Panel*. Martin and Zabal illustrate a responsive design approach, developing classification trees for auxiliary data to model and predict classes of nonrespondents with the fieldwork procedures of *PIAAC* Germany 2012. Bergmann and Scherpenzeel provide insights into the field monitoring strategies of the *Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe* and focus the implementation of adaptive/responsive survey design and its effects on sample representativeness. Calderwood et al. share their experiences in the *UK Millennium Cohort Study* by comparing differences in the fieldwork monitoring procedures across waves. In the final contribution, Bieber et al. illustrate the potential of visualization of geospatial data for fieldwork monitoring in the context of the German Longitudinal Election Study.

An overview of the contributions by authors' names, title, methodological focus, survey, and country

Author(s)	Title of contribution	Methodological focus of paper	Survey	Country
Meitinger, Stadtmüller, Silber et al.	Fieldwork Monitoring in Practice: Insights from 17 Large-scale Social Science Surveys in Germany	Descriptive overview of relevant fieldwork indicators and measures in the German context	ALLBUS, ESS, EVS, GESIS Panel, GIP, GLES, NEPS, pairfam, PHF, PASS, PIAAC, SHARE, SOEP core, IAB-BAMF-SOEP study of refugees, SOEP migration samples, TwinLife, WVS	Germany
Briceno-Rosas, Butt, & Kappelhof	Improving Central Monitoring of Fieldwork in Cross-national Surveys: The Case of the Fieldwork Management System in the European Social Survey	Fieldwork monitoring systems in cross-national surveys	ESS	Cross-national
Cornesse	The utility of auxiliary data for survey response modeling: Evidence from the German Internet Panel	Auxiliary data	GIP	Germany
Martin & Zabal	Converting nonrespondents in PIAAC Germany 2012 using responsive measures	Classification trees to model nonrespondents in a responsive design with auxiliary data	PIAAC	Germany
Bergmann & Scherpenzeel	Using field monitoring strategies to improve panel sample representativeness: application during data collection in the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)	Implementation of adaptive/responsive survey design	SHARE	Germany
Calderwood et al.	Developments in fieldwork procedures and monitoring in longitudinal surveys: case prioritization and electronic contact sheets on the UK Millennium Cohort Study	Comparison of fieldwork monitoring strategies across waves	UK Millennium Cohort Study	UK
Bieber et al.	Using Geospatial Data to Monitor and Optimize Face-to-Face Fieldwork	Visual fieldwork monitoring tool	German Longitudinal Election Study	Germany

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